Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for separating a pane of a brittle material from a moving sheet of the material along a separation line, said pane and said sheet having a width, said pane when separated having a length, said movement of the sheet being described by a vector, said method comprising:

(a) releasably engaging the moving sheet within an area defined by the length and width of the to-be-separated pane, said area becoming the pane when separated from the sheet;

(b) rotating the to-be-separated pane about an axis which substantially coincides with the separation line, said rotation causing the pane to separate from the sheet; and

(c) passively moving the separated pane relative to the moving sheet using gravity as the motive force so that the pane and the sheet do not contact each other once separation occurs;

wherein the sheet moves continuously during (a), (b), and (c).

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 where the vector is substantially vertical.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the releasable engagement is a vacuum engagement.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the brittle material is glass.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for separating a pane of a brittle material from a continually moving ribbon ~~sheet~~ of the material along a separation line, said pane and said ribbon ~~sheet~~ having a width, said pane when separated having a length, said continual movement of the ribbon ~~sheet~~ being described by a vector, said method comprising:

(a) releasably engaging the continually moving ribbon ~~sheet~~ within an area defined by the length and width of the to-be-separated pane, said area becoming the pane when separated from the ~~sheet~~ ribbon;

(b) rotating the to-be-separated pane about an axis which substantially coincides with the separation line, said rotation causing the pane to separate from the ~~sheet~~ ribbon; and

(c) moving the separated pane relative to the continually moving ribbon ~~sheet~~ so that the pane and the ribbon ~~sheet~~ do not contact each other once separation occurs, said movement employing as a motive force at least one of a hydraulic force, a mechanical spring force, a pneumatic force, and a vacuum. [[;]]

~~wherein the sheet moves continuously during (a), (b), and (c).~~

Claim 6 (original): The method of Claim 5 wherein a part of the motive force is due to the force of gravity.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of Claim 6 where the vector is substantially vertical.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for separating a pane of a brittle material from a moving sheet of the material along a separation line, said pane and said sheet having a width, said pane when separated having a length, said movement of the sheet being described by a vector, said method comprising:

(a) releasably engaging the moving sheet within an area defined by the length and width of the to-be-separated pane, said area becoming the pane when separated from the sheet;

(b) rotating the to-be-separated pane about an axis which substantially coincides with the separation line, said rotation causing the pane to separate from the sheet; and

(c) moving the separated pane relative to the moving sheet so that the pane and the sheet do not contact each other once separation occurs, said movement employing as a motive force at least one of a hydraulic force, a mechanical spring force, a pneumatic force, and a vacuum;

wherein:

(i) the sheet moves continuously during (a), (b), and (c); and

(ii) ~~The method of Claim 5 wherein~~ the releasable engagement is a vacuum engagement.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 5 wherein the brittle material is glass.

Claim 10 (new): The method of Claim 8 wherein a part of the motive force is due to the force of gravity.

Claim 11 (new): The method of Claim 10 where the vector is substantially vertical.

Claim 12 (new): The method of Claim 8 wherein the brittle material is glass.